



Mortality

Kellie Sheridan

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After surviving a deadly plague outbreak, sixteen-year-old Savannah thought she had lived through the very worst of human history. There was no way to know that the miracle vaccine would put everyone at risk for a fate worse than un-death.

Now, two very different kinds of infected walk the Earth, intent on nothing but feeding and destroying what little remains of civilization. When the inoculated are bitten, infection means watching on in silent horror as self-control disappears and the idea of feasting on loved ones becomes increasingly hard to ignore.

Starving and forced to live inside of the abandoned high school, all Savannah wants is the chance to fight back. When a strange boy arrives with a plan to set everything right, she gets her chance. Meeting Cole changes everything. Mere survival will never be enough.

Mortality Details

Date : Published March 19th 2013 by Patchwork Press

ISBN : 9780991789719

Author : Kellie Sheridan

Format : Paperback 271 pages

Genre : Horror, Zombies, Young Adult, Science Fiction, Dystopia

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From Reader Review **Mortality** for online ebook

Dianne says

The zombies are killing of the world! Their disease is wiping out the world, one person at a time and survival is paramount. The sought after vaccine brings on a second wave of mutated zombies! Is survival even possible? Okay, before you say, 'been there, read that,' hang on and take a chance on this YA take on a post-apocalyptic world! The action is well-paced, the angst is minimal, the teen love triangle is non-existent!

Mortality by Kellie Sheridan is refreshing, told from two POVs, that do not necessarily run concurrent with each other, timeline – wise. Savannah is a survivor, a teen who has seen the worst and continues to fight on, sometimes taking risks that may prove to be too big, but never being afraid to jump into the fray! Zarah is quieter, more feminine, less physically heroic, but a survivor, just the same. For 'Team Savannah, we have Cole, who becomes Savannah's key to being able to fight back for those who have been lost and those who need to survive. He knows things/people who may be able to help humanity and is determined to make a journey that is both dangerous and heroic, taking Savannah along with him. Together, they will fight their way to their destination. For 'Team Zarah,' we have Liam, a fighter, of the same ilk as Savannah and Cole. Without him, could Zarah even survive? And then their worlds collide...

Kellie Sheridan proves she can write good "zombie stuff!" She does NOT overdo the gore, the fighting is well-paced and not overly drawn out! Her creation of Zarah shows us that not all MCs are created equal, and some have a quiet, hidden strength that could prove extremely useful in the future. Ms. Sheridan colors her scenes well, and emotionally ties the reader to the stake as the story unfolds, one layer at a time!

A copy of **Mortality** was provided by NetGalley and Patchwork Press in exchange for my honest review.

Publication Date: March 19, 2013

Publisher: Patchwork Press

ISBN: 9780991789719

Number of Pages: 282

Age Recommendation: Young Adult

Genre: Post-apocalyptic, YA

My Rating: 4 stars

Available at: Amazon / Barnes & Noble

For more reviews check out Tome Tender's Book Blog or find us on Facebook.

Anne says

3.5 stars

Zombies. Gotta love 'em. Or *I* do, anyway.

Now if zombies are your thing too, then *Mortality* isn't a bad choice for a rainy afternoon of reading.

Is it groundbreaking? No. There's nothing super-duper different about the walking dead in this one, but it's fast paced and well written enough to keep you flipping the pages. Besides, can you *really* say no to that cover? Yeah, I didn't think so.

It's told from the POV's of two different girls, Savannah and Zarah. Savannah is the main character, but the reason for Zarah's story doesn't become clear till the end of the book.

I will not give spoilers, I will not give spoilers...

Anyway. We get introduced to Savannah and her friends, who are living in an abandoned high school with the rest of their small community. Both of Savannah's parents were killed in the Zombie Apocalypse (*it's coming, people!*), and now her days consist of training to fight the two types of infected. The first are the zombies who were infected when the virus initially hit. These guys are what you've seen in every horror flick. A slow-moving, groaning, mindless corpse that wants to eat you up. Yum.

The second type are a bit different. The scientists came up with a 'cure' for the virus, but didn't get a chance to properly test it. *You know that can't possibly end well, right?* Surprise, surprise, the people who were inoculated after the first wave, and then bitten by an original zombie...turned into Super-Zombies. This second kind of zombie is much faster, stronger, and smarter than the first generation.

So, yeah. The vaccine didn't work.

Since Savannah is part of the under 18 crowd, the adults have decided to sideline her (and the other kids) for their own protection. Unfortunately, Savannah isn't content to let others do all of the fighting, and while she and her friends are out on a relatively safe medicine run, she talks the boys into attempting something a bit more daring. And it works! Well, sort of.

Ok, not at all. Turns out, they're pretty much responsible for the destruction of the community's safety.

Kids these days. Tsk. They never listen!

I blame the internet.

Alrighty. Due to their lack of foresight, zombies overrun the community's compound, and the group is forced to make a run for it. Unfortunately, Savannah and her friends get left behind, and have to try to make it to the designated safe house on their own.

cue ominous music

What about Zarah? Well, her journey is sprinkled throughout the book in a way that keeps you interested, but doesn't really compare to Savannah's. Her story somewhat parallels Savannah's in a *What If* kind of way, but it soon becomes obvious that she's a secondary character.

Things also get more interesting once Cole is introduced. At first, he seems like a bumbling idiot, but he turns out to have quite a few useful tricks up his sleeve. To top it off, he's got some pretty interesting secrets. I'm not really sure I was feeling the chemistry between him and Savannah, though. It wasn't insta-love, but it kind of felt like they ended up together because there weren't many other choices left.

In the end, I'd say this was a decent zombie book...with an awesome cover. If you're new to the genre, I wouldn't start here, there's better stuff out there to cut your teeth on. However, if you're already addicted to rabid flesh-eaters, then this will probably satisfy your craving for *braaaaaains!*

Nicole Hewitt says

This review and many others can be found on my blog - [Feed Your Fiction Addiction](#)

Mortality follows two teenage girls through the zombie apocalypse. Savannah and Zarah have both found themselves orphaned after the virus takes over, but their circumstances and attitudes about what's happening around them are quite different. Savannah teams up with a group of survivors and trains to kill the zombies, while Zarah bonds with a guy who ends up helping her through the worst of times.

What I LOVED:

Zombie action.

There are plenty of zombies in this book, and they're not the type that just shuffle around and groan. No, the second generation zombies are way smarter and way more dangerous than that. There was just enough zombie gore without being gruesome and there were some fun horror elements (though I wouldn't say the book was scary). If you enjoy a good zombie novel, this should satisfy!

The emotional story.

While this book is definitely about a zombie invasion, the real story is about how it affects the people left to deal with the nightmare that's sprouted up around them. Savannah has had to live with the guilt of not acting when her parents were being attacked, and because of this she has vowed never to be useless again. This has pushed her to act when others want to simply survive. Then there's Zarah. She feels lost and confused in the new world that she faces, and she relies on Liam to take care of her. The two girls respond to the crisis completely differently, but both responses are believable based on the girls' personalities and experiences. Zarah's story changes a bit as the book goes on, and it gets a lot more intense and emotional (and really sort of creepy). Loved it!

Not your stereotypical ending.

This book didn't end the way I expected it to (at least not completely – there was one aspect to it that I guessed at, but not the major twist). The last 25% of the book was definitely exciting, and Sheridan ended the book explosively in a way that was very fitting considering the intensity of the story. For a little while, I was pretty sure that I knew how it was all going to play out, but I was very wrong. The ending could be considered a cliffhanger, but it's by no means an ending that leaves you hanging – it was a satisfying ending that leaves you wanting more!

Diversity.

Yay for a character of middle-eastern descent! Zarah's heritage isn't a huge focus of the book, but it's definitely mentioned more than once. I appreciated Sheridan's use of diversity.

The negatives:

Two separate stories.

The only aspect of the book that I wasn't crazy about was the fact that it felt like two separate stories and the two storylines really aren't intertwined until the very end (and then, just barely). Both Savannah's and Zarah's stories were interesting, but switching back and forth was a little frustrating – I was waiting for their stories to converge! Since I felt a bit more invested in Savannah's story than Zarah's until somewhere around 60%, I wasn't always a fan of the changing POVs. Sometimes I was also a little confused about the timing – it didn't seem like the two storylines were happening on the same timeline (even after finishing the book, I'm still not exactly clear on this). Still Sheridan did eventually weave the stories together, and I was much more invested in Zarah's story once something major happened in her storyline, so this didn't stop me from enjoying the book overall!

The romances.

I wasn't completely sold on either of the romances in this book, but I didn't dislike them either. Really, the romance felt secondary in this book (which I appreciated), so I didn't have to be completely invested.

Mortality was an intense read, full of zombie action and emotional turmoil. I'm looking forward to reading the next installment! I give the book 4/5 stars.

****Disclosure: I received this book from NetGalley and the publisher in exchange for an honest review. No*

*other compensation was given and all opinions are my own.****

Marjolein says

Read all my reviews on <http://urlphantomhive.booklikes.com>

If there's one thing I've learned from zombie books, is the following: Never-ever use a vaccine that's not properly been tested. If you do not believe me, why not read *Mortality* (Kellie Sheridan), *The Passage* (Justin Cronin) or *ARV-3* (Cameo Renae) although that last one has the most ridiculous vaccine ever: against RADIATION!

First rule of not properly tested vaccines: It will go horribly wrong and people will turn into zombies.

After a first relatively minor zombie attack (unless you're living near Cleveland) the government hurries this new vaccination scheme, which goes - following the strict first rule of not properly tested vaccines - horribly wrong creating a new race of zombies that are a bit less dead and are harder to defeat as they have some other thoughts than BRAINS, apparently.

In this apocalyptic world Savannah and some other survivors have been camping at her old school, trying to stay away from the zombies as much as possible. But when disaster strikes and they have to flee, they learn about a terrible, gruesome plot of the government when trying to save the ones they love.

On the other end of the dual POV is Zarah. In the beginning it's not completely clear what her story adds to the book, but this will become clear eventually. I thought it was an interesting story, also because it describes the craze in the city during the first outbreak better.

The love stories in both story lines were a bit too much for me, but not so eye-rolling annoying that it gave me headaches. They do make stupid decisions, but then again they are new to the whole survival thing.

It's not the best zombie/apocalypse story out there, but I thought it was interesting and nice to read.

Mortality is the first book in the Hitchhiker's Strain duology. The second book is called *Duality*. A short prequel consisting of four short stories is called *End Dayz*.

Thanks to the publisher and Netgalley for providing me with a free copy of this book in exchange for an honest review!

Melissa says

Thank you, Ms. Sheridan for providing me a copy in exchange for a review.

I love zombie books and after a couple of days to digest what I've just read, I can finally start this review. Very unique indeed even though majority of it follows a bit of the clichéd view on zombies. Yes, to become a zombie you need to be bitten (not sure about scratched). But, the creative twist here is that there are two *types* of zombies. There are your typical undead ones and then there are the people being eaten alive by the

virus while still being aware of your surroundings. That's cool and a little more depressing. I would not want to be aware that I was eating someone else, I rather be a mindless zombie.

Savannah is one of our main characters, although I think she really is the main main character. She's a fighter, this girl, with a personality to match. Savannah has spent majority of her life hidden in buildings training to kill zombies. Awesome, but being trapped in a school for a good chunk of your life can get you stir-crazy. So, when an opportunity comes up - she can't refuse.

I liked her character and I loved her development over the story. At first, I thought she just wanted to show off and be a badass, but what she proclaims to do is what she really wants to do and that's to fight zombies/find a cure to help others. She may appear as a tough person, but once you really get to know her she becomes caring and humble.

Cole was an awesome guy and not really typical. He doesn't fall into any of the clichéd categories for teen characters. He's not the brightest, but he has good points and reasoning. He's not cocky, but has some snarky remarks here and there. He may be closed off most of the time, but there was one scene that had me thinking he's a truly deep character. (view spoiler)

There was sort of a side story going on in here that did slam into the main story with Savannah and Cole. I didn't really like the side story because I didn't like the main character. Zarah kind of pissed me off. I know she was new to the whole zombie thing, but she constantly felt like a newborn to me even after experiencing the worse. You're not the only one who's new to the whole zombie thing. Get over it. And she always relied on Liam to lead the way, or she was always thinking of him and that got her into some trouble. (view spoiler)

But I do like Liam and I think it's kind of evil that I like the fact that (view spoiler) She was definitely holding him back, and now that I'm happy Liam can be with people like him AKA Savannah and Cole trying to fight this zombie apocalypse.

A great approach to zombies. I really can't stand vampire books and there aren't enough werewolf ones. But zombies is a great way to approach the paranormal because I certainly can't tolerate the magical aspects. This book really got me hooked because it's strange to say that I had a zombie nightmare a couple of nights ago! Ms. Sheridan, you're doing something right but please try not to incorporate another whiny character. Just my opinion.

Cheyenne Teska says

With beautiful writing and a plot that pulls you in, I have to say that Mortality is one of the best zombie books I've ever read. The world has seemingly come to an end, and those who have survived have no choice but to live in fear. Savannah is just a normal teenager, or at least she was before the infection took over. Now she lives with nearly two hundred other people in the local high school, but when the zombies force them out, they must find a new safe haven...except no where is safe. Throughout the story, they encounter many new people and even have some difficulties, but the one good thing about all of this is finding Cole along the way.

I loved the plot, and the fact that there are two types of viruses. We've seen all types of zombies in the horror genre, but the fact that the author combines traditional slow moving zombies and terrifying super-fast zombies was what kept me interested. Not knowing what type the group would stumble upon next was the

most thrilling part of reading. As for the characters, they grew on me very quickly. I enjoyed how badass Savannah was, and the fact that she never waited for someone else to take out a zombie, she just did it herself. Full of courage, sass, and enough knowledge to survive, I found her to be the perfect protagonist.

This was exactly the type of book I needed to help me get out of my reading slump! Mortality was full of action scenes, but I found it to be so much more than that. It was about survival, but even more, it was about hope and the fact that these people were willing to do anything to survive and live as they once did with the help of a possible cure. Another thing I really loved was that this book wasn't only about Savannah, but it was also about a girl named Zarah too, which tells a completely different but familiar story. I can't imagine Mortality without these different perspectives, and it's one of the many things that made it unique.

Overall, I believe that fans of the television show, The Walking Dead, and Courtney Summer's This Is Not a Test will fall in love with Mortality. It's a book that both the male and female audience will easily be able to become involved in. Though it is a self published debut, it's definitely a new favorite of mine. Jam-packed full of action, tough-but-lovable characters and so much excitement, this is one zombie novel you won't want to miss!

Litzy says

No tenia muy buenas expectativas con el y la verdad estaba muy equivocada. No es de los mejores de Zombies pero se hace querer de verdad. Me ha gustado todos sus personajes aunque Alex me hubiese gustado darle dos bofetadas bien dadas.

Es un libro sencillo de leer, lo empecé ayer y sin darme cuenta ya estaba en la ultima página.

E. C. McRoy says

Also posted on my YA Book Blog.

Okay, so, I really wanted to give thus five stars, but there were a lot of little mistakes throughout that really just needed another set of eyes to fix. All the same, I can't completely ignore it, so this is actually a 4.5 star review!

So, this was an engrossing tale of the zombie apocalypse that has torn apart society. In the wreckage, people have tried to rebuild, but it's like the wild west, lawless and dangerous and not always for the reasons you expect.

At first, I kinda didn't like Savannah. I thought she was a little too eager, a little too cocky, but by the end of the book I wanted her to ride off into the sunset with the guy of her choosing and Apocalypse Boy BFF Zack who is one of my favorite characters. He's the strong, loyal, realist guy in all of this and it makes him very likeable. Alex is a jerk, Cole I'm undecided on (still) and Marybeth can shove it where the sun don't shine.

Plot. It was well thought out and decently original, though it follows most of the same tropes of zombie apocalypse stories, but they were well done, coupled with a fast paced style and flow that makes them engaging and worth reading. I at first didn't understand why Zarahs story was so important (beyond the

obvious) but by the end I appreciated their paralleled tales.

All in all, I would recommend this to any zombie fan, especially if you like YA, strong (but not over the top) female characters and a good look at what it might be like to make it through the end - one way or another.

Marta Fernández says

Sinceramente, nunca me han llamado los zombies, cuando vi esta novedad pensé que con ella podría romper con mi obcecación y disfrutar de una lectura que estuviera plagado de muertos vivientes en descomposición. Últimamente, sobre todo gracias a la serie que está en boca de todos: The walking dead, la mayoría de mis amigos, tanto de donde vivo como del Facebook me tientan con este tipo de literatura.

Generación Z ha pasado la prueba y con nota muy alta. Solo he leído dos libros de zombies, uno pasó sin pena ni gloria (Generación Dead) y otro casi lo tiro por la ventana, no conseguí terminarlo (R&Julie). Si nos pasamos al cine tampoco he tenido mucha suerte, ya que la última que he visto (Guerra mundial Z) me ha parecido un bodrio.

Esta novela creo que fue escrita para mí, en serio, me encanta cómo escribe la autora. Pensaba que se iba a recrear con las escenas donde los zombies se alimentaban, relatándonos cuántos litros de sangre perdía la víctima y cómo la iba devorando poco a poco, menos mal que Kellie Sheridan no apuesta por las descripciones morbosas porque es algo que odio, y siempre he criticado a la trilogía de Los juegos del hambre.

Tampoco detalla en exceso el estado de putrefacción de los muertos vivientes, algo que agradezco profundamente, mejor dejarlo a la imaginación del lector. En este mundo post-apocalíptico solo hay unos pocos humanos que han resistido a la enfermedad, mientras que los zombies cada vez se multiplican más rápido, algunos son fáciles de vencer pero otros, los de segunda generación (astutos, listos y sin descomponerse) y los Zs (zombies muy grandes).

El libro mezcla dos historias diferentes, con dos protagonistas distintas, que luego se cruzan al final. Ambas enganchan sin remedio, pero una de las muchachas tendrá un final desgarrador, creo que esto es lo único que puedo resaltar del libro, me ha dado muchísima pena lo que le ha sucedido. La verdad es que la autora hace sufrir a sus retoños de una manera muy... Georgiana (me refiero a George Martin).

Respecto al amor, sí que hay, en especial en una historia, en la otra aparece casi al final. Digamos que no tiene mucho protagonismo pero tampoco se le echa en falta, con la cantidad de acción que tiene el libro apenas te das cuenta. Pero ambas parejas son muy tiernas, estoy deseando ver cómo evolucionan Savannah y Cole.

Creo que es una de las pocas historias en la que puedo afirmar con rotundidad que TODOS los personajes me han encantado, tanto principales como secundarios, le he cogido un cariño especial a Zach, Liam, Savannah y a Zarah.

Su lectura es extremadamente ágil, en cada capítulo (más o menos) va contándolo o Savannah o Zarah, las dos protagonistas de las dos historias paralelas, que son totalmente diferentes entre sí, cada una nos cuenta cómo está viviendo esta guerra. Savvy lucha contra los zombies mientras que Zarah intenta esconderse y protegerse, dos formas de ver el caos, dos guerreras a su manera.

Una novela que engancha sin remedio y que aconsejo a todo el mundo, tanto a los fans de los zombies como a los que no lo sean. Un libro maravilloso, con un final demoledor.

Excelente.

TEJIENDO CRÍTICAS EN LA SOMBRA.

Summer Lane says

I received an ARC of this book in exchange for a fair an honest review

This book is a good old fashioned zombie adventure novel with a kick of romance. The synopsis is posted above, so let me sum it up for you: zombies take over the world. Girl is trying to survive in said world. Girl meets boy. People get killed. Things are epically messed up, as evidenced by the fact that zombies are roaming around everywhere.

I absolutely LOVED the fact that this book had so much action! It's YA, so the romance is a lot less steamy than what you're going to see in Upper YA or New Adult books - which I liked very much. I like reading about the everyday teenage crush - especially if it's set in a post-apocalyptic environment. I also really loved the fact that we follow the stories of two characters during different timelines: Savannah and Zarah. I think Zarah was my favorite lead - I just felt for her situation more deeply than I did for Savannah's, probably because I got to get in her head before and after the zombie apocalypse hit. Her losses and emotions seemed more profound because I knew a little more about her upfront. I felt like Alex was kind of a jerk (okay...a big jerk!), but I can see where he's coming from. I mean, you try surviving the zombie apocalypse without getting stressed out over it. In all, I found this to be a very satisfying read and I think it reaches a broad age group, despite the fact that it's YA. Now excuse me while I go lock my windows and doors...you never know when zombies might take over.

Ellis says

Actual rating between 3.5 and 4 stars.

Disclaimer: I received an ARC through Netgalley in exchange for an honest review.

I am not one for zombie novels, but that cover! I couldn't take my eyes off Zarah (the girl on the right). I know that's not the way to go about this whole "selecting books" business, but eh. So I started reading the first few chapters, which are told from Savannah's POV, and immediately, there's this boy she likes but he already has a girlfriend and this girl doesn't get along with Savannah at all, and I essentially started cursing myself because it was that damn cover that did it again.

And then. If there's such a genre as fun badassery, this book would be in on it. In the prequel to *Mortality*, End Dayz, Sheridan has a character chilling with chickens on Christmas, and she's actually kind of okay with it, because what else can you do when the human race is slowly being turned into brain-cravers? Exactly. I like how she doesn't try to make everything super serious and angsty because we are dealing with an

apocalyptic situation here. It's believable that not everyone is going to try and be a big hero.

Savannah and Zarah are the narrators in *Mortality*. Both have lost their families and are trying to survive with what they have, but they are still very different characters. Zarah had to flee her school with a guy she barely knew and Savannah is getting military training to fend off the zombies. Of course you expect them to meet up at some point, but that doesn't happen 'till the very end. Their story lines are fairly independent from one another.

I like that Kellie Sheridan decided to go this route. So many times dual perspectives are used to show the soon-to-be couple mooning over each other's eyes and the spectacular colour-changing abilities of those eyes. Here, they are actually utilised to tell a story. Granted, there are still guys the main characters swoon over, but they are very nice guys.

Liam and Zarah get together rather quickly, but their relationship really grows over the course of the novel. Savannah and Cole are more of a slow burn. They are friends first and then become something more, and it's all so sweet that I just couldn't stop smiling. Sheridan showing the different stages of multiple relationships is something else that pleasantly surprised me.

All in all, reading this novel was fun. There is some sketchy science involving a cure for "the bitten" that goes haywire and actually turns them into Superzombies, a.k.a. "Z"s, but I didn't pay too much attention to the credibility of that concept. *Mortality* is so action-packed that I just wanted to keep reading without overthinking it. I do think it would have helped if Savannah's chapters had been written in present simple as well. She and Zarah are essentially distinct enough that the narrative doesn't need different tenses to help separate one voice from the other.

This book is extremely fast-paced. Yes, I struggled with the beginning, but I still read it in one sitting and, more importantly, in only a few hours, which is a personal victory for me because I am the slowest reader of them all. *adjusts crown*. I like how Sheridan has fun with her concept. It works. The characters are likeable and the story is engaging. I approve.

This review originally appeared on The Random Transliterator

Laura Thomas says

The zombie apocalypse has already happened. People are now living in small groups, struggling to survive. They have not one, but two kinds of zombies to fear.

You have your typical, shambling, mindless, rotting dead and then you have the living ones. Victims of a supposed vaccine, the Hitchhiker Strain.

If you've been given the vaccine, it's supposed to protect you if bitten. Instead, once bitten you don't die, but you do develop an uncontrollable urge to munch on anyone near you.

One town has gathered its survivors and taken refuge in the highschool. The adults do the supply runs and clear out any zombies that get too close, while the children and teens are restricted to the school.

Savannah chafes to do something, anything besides sitting and waiting, feeling useless. When given a chance to take some friends and go for more medical supplies, she's all for it.

What should have been an easy task causes consequences and when they get back, the school has been overrun and those still living have fled.

Now Savannah wishes for those days of boredom.

Mortality is actually about two young women and two separate stories.

Savannah and her friends are now without a safe shelter and on their own, trying to find the rest of their people.

Zarah has seen her parents killed right before her eyes. She's finally found her aunt, but loses her when she's attacked and bitten.

Savvy and Zarah's personalities are as different as night and day, but as you read their stories, you'll see them become more and more alike as they both try to stay alive and protect the ones they love.

When their stories finally do come together, it won't be the way you expect.

With each zombie story I read, I wonder how the author will hold my interest, will make me want to keep on reading a plot that has been written so many times.

The main characters may be younger people, but the author wizens them up fast, taking you with them as they are forced to make intelligent decisions. No more brash moves.

They stumble now and then, doing the wrong things, unsure of themselves and scared.

That's what kept me reading, kept me wanting to know more. I became attached to these characters and feared what was going to happen to them.

And the ending! What an ending. I was so deep into it that I really didn't see it coming.

Do yourself a favor and try Mortality. I'd love to see your face at the end. The author doesn't disappoint.

Erin says

One could argue that zombie lit has been around longer, it didn't officially emerge as its own subgenre until the 1990s. That's kind of hard for me to wrap my head around, mainly because it coincides with my first independent adventures into Barnes and Noble, but that's neither here nor there. Point is the genre has been around nearly as long as I have and though I am familiar enough with the idea on film, I can honestly say Kellie Sheridan's Mortality marks my first encounter with the undead in printed lit.

Overall, I liked what Sheridan did with this piece. I think the generational forms of the virus offer a nice twist and I absolutely adore her treatment of Zarah. There are a lot of limitations to what you can do with a

post apocalyptic zombie world and I was pleased with the originality this author brought to the table even if the execution left me feeling a little cheated. I don't mean to be overly critical, I'm merely stating I think this young author has room to grow particularly in terms of structure.

For example, I think Savannah and Zarah's stories were kept apart far too long, a style choice that lent itself to the predictability of the ending. I was roughly halfway through the book, explaining the concept to my husband when it hit me. I literally told him there was only one way to close this story and called it. Had Sheridan played these stories closer together, equalized Savannah and Zarah's face time with the reader, heightened the emotional tension, teasing her audience not with the obvious question of what, but the tantalizing proposition of when, the climax would have packed much more of a punch.

Despite this, I honestly feel The Hitchhiker Strain series has loads of potential and am eager to see where Sheridan takes it in the future.

Ari says

Zombies are probably the only creatures which sort of freak me out. Yet I can't help but feel drawn to them. But that's not what first called my attention to this book. It was the cover. I loved it and I think it's very representative of the stories in the book.

The story is told from two point of views, teenagers Savannah and Zarah. I have to say really I liked the way this was done. You could say one point of view was told from the perspective of a Zombie slayer/hunter and the other... Well, from someone who is the complete opposite. Both of these girls tell their stories starting from different points in the timeline. While one starts telling her story from when the infection first started appearing, the other starts six months afterwards. And even though one of the starts after everything has happened, we are still told, or rather she tells us, the events which led her to where she was. I also liked the way you could tell the difference of the "voice" when PoV's switched from one to the other. Both were talking about the same thing, the same events, but you could tell it was two different people telling the story.

I liked the way the story flowed. When Savannah was talking, it was fast. Sort of like her personality. I didn't like her, but liked the way the story was told. While when Zarah was talking there was this sense of calm under all the sense of urgency. I REALLY liked Zarah. Actually, I loved her, and her chapters. Especially after the *motel* scene happened and she talks of her feelings. I would have gone crazy if I was her. But the end... *raises eyebrow* It would have been so great if the story had taken another route instead of the one it took. I sort of knew it would be that way after everything clicked together, but I was really hoping I was wrong. I wasn't and I was disappointed. Also, the ending to that story felt rushed. Actually, they both felt that way. But there's a book two, so I can ignore it.

Besides Savannah, another character I didn't like was Cole. Really... what was he thinking? No, really. I actually yelled "Are you crazy?" (in Spanish) a few times. I really want to understand him, but I just can't. And at the end, I feel like he is hiding something from Savannah again. I really wanted to smack him since he first appeared. Liam was a bit better. I'd say he passed the test. Poor thing...

Besides Zarah and Liam's story, another good point the book has was there no real dreaded love triangle nor a love square of doom! I was so happy about that. Yeah, Savannah had a crush, but I could tell it was very superficial. There was a bit of insta-love, but it was the apocalypse. *shrugs* Also, I liked that the story had two different types of zombies. The usual mindless ones and the uber Zs (the intelligent ones), so that's

another brownie point right there.

I enjoyed Mortality. Really, I did. Although the book is about terrifying zombies, it wasn't "scary". At all. But it does have the "ew" factor rampaging through its pages. Just reading about the way they looked, moved, ate, and smelled definitely had my skin crawling. Plus, it was a quick read. I read it in just a few hours. So yeah, I liked it. I will definitely check out the other books in the series.

Thanks to the author for providing me a free copy of the book in exchange for an honest review.

Tana says

Mortality by Kellie Sheridan

I've never read a zombie book and since watch Walking Dead I thought I might try one. I have nothing to compare this to but I will say that Kellie Sheridan has written a really good book. Her writing flows extremely well, character development is written well and you get to learn a bit of the background on each of the main characters. Mortality is like reading two books in one, it quite interesting.

You first get swept into Savannah's story, right from the start I really enjoyed reading about Savannah and her friends. Then we meet Zarah, who is more or less alone now and saved by a young man named Liam.

Savannah is with a group of people who are living in a school and so far they are safe from the zombie. And before I forget these zombies's are not like the ones on tv, some of them are stronger, faster and appear to be a bit smarter. There is a reason for this but you need to read and find out more. So one day Savannah and a few of her friends are asked to run into town to get some medical supplies from the local drug store, they are just thrilled to finally asked to go and do something. So they head off to the drug store and Savannah comes up with the idea they should stop by and check out the medical centre first she really figures that the zombie's who were they might be gone. Well you know what they say about good intentions things from here just get bad. It's heartbreaking at times I felt so sorry for Savannah as she feels so guilty for what happens next.

Then there is Zarah who is sitting in class checking out the new boy Liam when they find out about the Zombie's. Liam gets Zarah out of their school safely and she heads home. When things get really bad for Zarah, she calls Liam to come and get her. On the run trying to stay alive Zarah and Liam run into many obstacles.

So if you like zombie's this is the book for you. I have rated it a 4 star rating and recommend Mortality by Kellie Sheridan as a must read. Kellie Sheridan has written a fantastic novel and I cannot wait to read more in this series.
